



U3A Darwin Inc. Newsletter

No 367 October 2026

PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811

ABN 97 908 391 549

u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com

www.u3adarwin.org.au

Activities for October 2026

All held at 10 am at Casuarina Library, Bradshaw Terrace, unless shown otherwise.

We charge \$5 per person at meetings and mahjong sessions to cover room hire, audio-visual equipment and air-conditioning. Tea/coffee/bikkies are included.

In 2026, the first meeting and first mahjong session of the month are fee free!

Thursday 1 October

(NO meeting fee)

Raine Caldwell:

The Odyssey

Thursday 8 October

Julian Schüller:

Thomas Hardy, a pioneer of the NT

Thursday 15 October

Leslie White:

Caring for found wildlife in the NT

Followed by Board Meeting

Thursday 22 October

To be advised.

Thursday 29 October – U3A excursion to Casa de Bilsch, Howard Springs

Transport leaves Casuarina Library at 10.30 am sharp.

Bus return from Casa de Bilsch at 1.30 pm.

Booking form and more details on page 3.

To join the group bus you must book & pay by Thursday 22 October.

**Mahjong every Monday at 1 pm throughout the year
(except public holidays). NO fee on first Monday in month in 2026.**

Meetings start at 10 am prompt, so as a courtesy to speakers, **please be on time.**

All phones should be switched off or silenced during talks.

Be kind - wash up your own mug, but after speaker and questions have finished!

From the President

I also enjoyed the excursion to the Chung Wah Society’s Chinese Museum on Thursday 30 July 2026 ... even though, the next day I woke with the beginnings of a giant respiratory infection that got worse for a couple of long, miserable weeks before it got better. Made me miss the August Board meeting.

At Thursday 17 September 2026 meeting the wording of the brochure was discussed and cleared and will be reinvented for the third time and designed and printed before the February 2027 meeting.

Arrangements for the next excursion and the Christmas Party are being finalised.

Joan Kieboom, President

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The Secretary reports that she is delighted to welcome Robyn Wright who has joined the Board. Her involvement will be very much appreciated.

Treasurer’s Topics

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership fees for calendar year 2027 (also U3A financial year) will increase to \$30. From 1 October 2026, people joining U3A Darwin (these memberships run until end of December 2027) or renewing for 2027, will pay the new fee.

FINANCIAL SITUATION:

The above decision was taken by the Board because, despite a healthy bank balance, we have been making a loss each year since 2024. Increased costs such as insurance and room hire have contributed to this situation. Good fiscal management suggests that we turn this around.

The new membership fee remains good value. It covers, in addition to all the usual requirements of an organisation, subsidies for the costs of excursions and the annual Christmas lunch. The latter is a highly enjoyable social event open to all members; the membership fee covers less than half of the actual cost.

Joan Mettam, Treasurer

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2026-2027 Board of Management and contacts

President	Joan Kieboom	0427 080 340
Vice-President	Roger Clifton	RogerClifton3@gmail.com
Secretary	Christine Nekrasov	0408 137 149
Treasurer	Joan Mettam	0437 664 399
	Rosemary McEwen	0400 544 425
	Janet Fries	0407 577 213
	Shirley Andrews	0407 710 173
	Robyn Wright	0408 811 620
Board Members	Brian Radunz <i>ex-officio</i>	
	Brian Radunz	rocketradunz@icloud.com
	Christine Nekrasov	0408 137 149
Mahjong	Shirley Andrews	0407 710 173
Newsletter editor	Fiona Douglas	8985 4179
Website liaison	Judy Dent	8945 1446

U3A Darwin excursion - Thursday 29 October 2026



405 Whitewood Rd,
Howard Springs,
NT 0835.

Gallery, Garden, Homewares, Café & Thai cuisine.

- Transport from Casuarina Library to Casa De Bilsk: 10.30 am sharp
- Bus return to Library from Casa De Bilsk at 1.30 pm
- Own transport users: arrive at Casa De Bilsk at 11.00 am, please
- Lunch **at own expense** at Casa De Bilsk from 12 noon



BOOKING FORM – CASA DE BILSK



Members:	\$5 (own transport) \$15 (group maxi taxi from Casuarina Library;
Non-Members:	\$10 (own transport) \$25 (group maxi taxi from Casuarina Library)

If you have not booked and paid by THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER you will not be able to use the group transport as there are limited seats.

Names of Participants:

Please circle your response below

- | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----|------|------|------|
| 1. | Member Y / N | \$5 | \$10 | \$15 | \$25 |
| 2. | Member Y / N | \$5 | \$10 | \$15 | \$25 |

TOTAL TO PAY \$

Please confirm mode of transport (circle): Group Own

Email completed form to: treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com

or hand in at a meeting with your payment.

Payments need to be made by Thursday 22 October 2026:

- Pay cash at a meeting,
- OR bank transfer to: U3A Darwin Inc. BSB 633 000 Acc/No: 216820035

Please put your name + 'excursion' in the description box for transfer.

LED lighting is everywhere – is it always a good thing?

Dr Gabriel Crowley

You may have noticed lights around town are getting smaller, brighter and more numerous. Where once a room might have had a single 100W globe, our ceilings are now dotted with LED (light-emitting-diode) lights. New car headlights (also LEDs) are three to five times as bright as old-fashioned halogen globes. Streetlighting is also increasingly being converted to LEDs.

LED lighting has its benefits. Street lighting conversion to LEDs can cut electricity consumption, and hence greenhouse gas emissions, by 60%. Similar savings can be expected in the home. LED headlights have reduced single vehicle accidents by 19% and reduced night-time collisions with pedestrians by 23%.



Cloud of insects around old-style streetlight

However, LED lighting also has its downside. LED headlights are not as comfortable for drivers of oncoming vehicles – though this has not been reported as contributing to collisions. At the blue end of the spectrum, LED lights damage retinal cells, which can lead to permanent vision loss.

Blue LEDs are also lethal to insects. Along with land clearing and increasing pesticide use, this change in lighting – accompanied by a general increase in light pollution – has contributed to a decline in insect species worldwide.

While a reduction in insects, such as mosquitoes, fruit flies and caterpillars, may seem beneficial, it has a flow-on effect to other species. Many plants are pollinated by insects. So, production of crops and reproduction in native plants can be indirectly affected by LEDs. Declines have also been noted in many frogs, reptiles, birds and mammals that depend on insects for food.



Insect-free LED streetlight

The adverse impacts of LEDs can be reduced by switching to warmer-toned, yellow LED lights. These are less attractive to insects and cause fewer insect deaths than blue LED lights, and hence, fewer adverse impacts on higher organisms. Yellow lights are also less damaging to the eye. Most new LED lights have a toggle that allows you to manually switch from cool blue to warm yellow light. The globes in older lights would need to be replaced.

Editor's note: Gay has provided a list of references on this subject, which I can email to you if you ask me about them: u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com

U3A Darwin – save the date for the Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held on

Thursday 10 December 2026

(note: the 2nd Thursday of December)

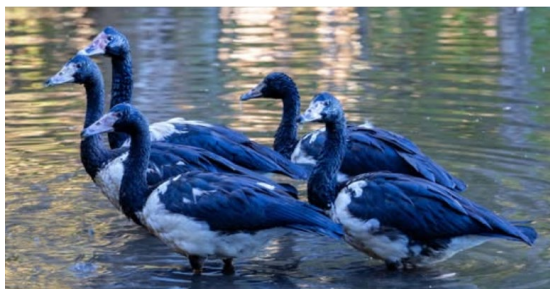
We will visit a new venue this year:

Tracy Village Sports & Social Club

where the parking should be easy!

Cost: Members \$30, Non-members \$55

More details in next month's newsletter



Magpie Geese awaiting the U3A Christmas Party.
Photo (detail) – Helen Albion, 2022, Facebook post.

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U3A Darwin Membership Form (January – December) 2027 onwards

Name Phone

Address (if new member or change of address)

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Email

Newsletters sent electronically if you provide an email address, otherwise by post.

Individual \$30 Organisation \$40 New Renewal

Please email completed form to: treasureru3adarwin@gmail.com

or post to: U3A Darwin Inc., PO Box 42451, CASUARINA NT 0811.

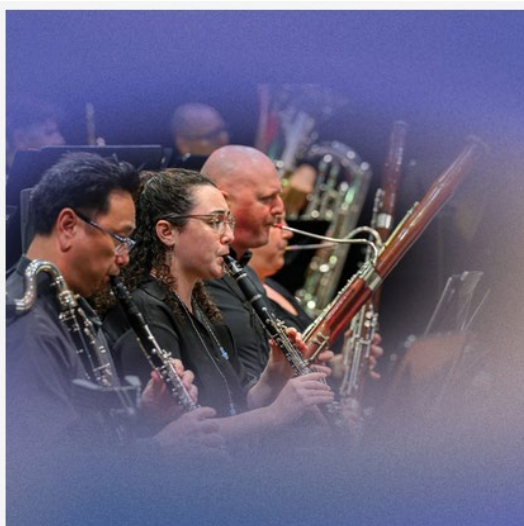
or hand in to the Treasurer at a meeting.

Payments may be made in cash at a meeting, or by bank transfer to:

Account Name: U3A Darwin Inc BSB 633-000 Account 216820035

Please put your name + 'renewal' or 'new' in the description box

Office use: *Joining Date* *Receipt Number*



Palmerston Classics

Memorable music from Mozart and more

FRI 9 OCTOBER | 7:30PM | PALMERSTON RECREATION CENTRE

Join DSO in Palmerston for a glittering evening of popular classics, filled with colour, romance, and energy.

This concert celebrates music that appeals to every generation, a joyful showcase of opera, ballet, stage and symphonic favourites, performed by DSO with brilliance and heart. A perfect October evening for audiences of all ages from Palmerston and beyond.

[MORE INFO](#)

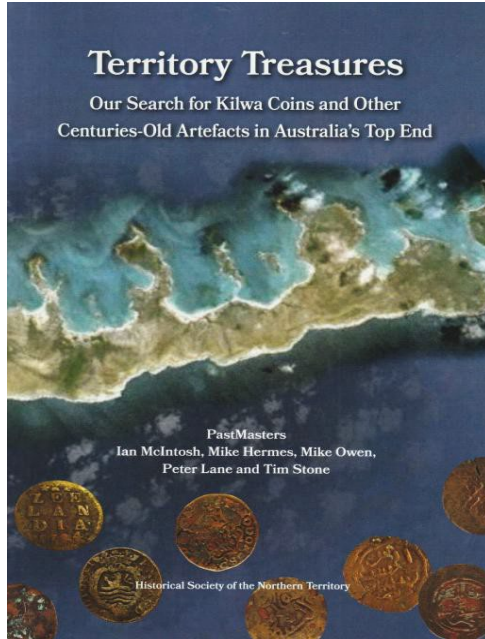
[BOOK NOW](#)

From the Historical Society of the Northern Territory

Friday 16 October – Book launch at Burnett House at 5pm

The Society's newest publication ***Territory Treasures: Our Search for Kilwa Coins and other Centuries Old Artefacts in Australia's Top End*** will be launched at Burnett House. The book written by Ian McIntosh *et al.* will be launched by the PastMasters.

The book will be on sale for \$35, CASH preferred.



The discovery of medieval African coins in Arnhem Land from Tanzania is a great mystery.

The coins were found by an Australian serviceman during World War2. Since 2013, the authors have been searching for clues on this rare discovery. By what means, and how did these coins find their way to Arnhem Land 10,000km away.

This book offers a range of hypotheses and demonstrates that the Yolngu of Arnhem land were involved in maritime trading well before the arrival of the Macassan trepangers during the 1700s.

NT Literary Awards were held on 23 September

U3A Darwin joins the Historical Society of the NT in congratulating Mark Ames, a member of both organisations.

Mark was a finalist in the Flash Fiction section of these awards.

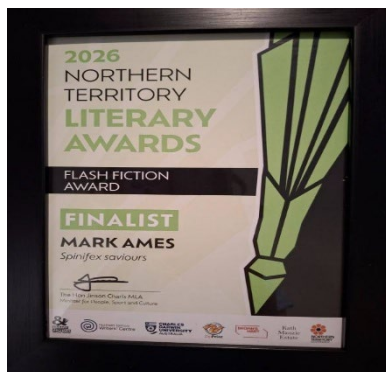


Image on right:
Mark Ames and
Merry Cooper.

Photographs
courtesy Mark
Ames,
reproduced from
the newsletter
of the HSNT.



Saturday 24 October – History Talks: History Colloquium, NT Library

This annual event is **free to attend**.

Program will be out soon: see website

<https://lant.nt.gov.au/announcement/coming-history-talks-annual-history-colloquium-1>

U3A Darwin Calendar for October 2026

All activities are held at Casuarina Library unless otherwise stated.

If Library is closed, access meeting room via the covered outdoor area. Use small black gate near the book return chute, walk along the outer library wall, go through the silver gate, and immediately on your right is the glass side door to the meeting room.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 10am <i>(NO meeting fee)</i> <i>Raine Caldwell</i> will enlighten us on the Odyssey	2
5 1pm <i>(NO meeting fee)</i> Mahjong session	6	7	8 10am <i>Julian Schüller</i> introduces Thomas Hardy, an NT pioneer	9
12 1pm Mahjong session	13	14	15 10am <i>Leslie White</i> tells us how she cares for found wildlife Followed by Board meeting	16
19 1pm Mahjong session	20	21	22 10am <i>To be advised</i>	23
26 1pm Mahjong session	27 8.30am News letter preparation at Nightcliff electorate office	28	29 <u>Excursion</u> Casa de Bilsak, Howard Springs <i>10.30 am, bus</i> <i>departs Library</i> Bus return at 1.30 pm.	30

Newsletter contributions to Fiona Douglas at u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com by the third Tuesday of the month preceding publication, please.

The Editor thanks Judy Dent for proofreading all issues, but errors are the Editor's.

Newsletter preparation date will be Tuesday 27 October at 8.30 am at the Nightcliff electorate office of Ed Smelt MLA. If you would like to help, please call Fiona on 8985 4179 or email u3adarwinnewsletter@gmail.com.

U3A Darwin Inc gratefully acknowledges the kind contribution of Julie and the Nightcliff electorate office of Ed Smelt MLA. The office prints this newsletter and allows us to use their community room to compile the printed copies.

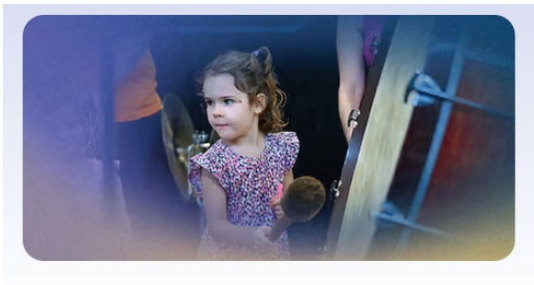
This newsletter is published by U3A Darwin Inc, PO Box 42451, Casuarina, NT 0811.

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The Back Page

U3A Darwin's Honorary Life Members
Judith Cooper (dec.), Lucy Cooper (dec.), Judy Dent, Sue Donnelly,
Yvonne Forrest OAM, Alex Gradussov (dec.), Lorna Hanssen,
Bob Lee (dec.), Colleen Lee (dec.), John MacDonald (dec.), David Swift.

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Palmerston Family Proms

Sat, 10 Oct, 10am - 11am ACST

This concert promises to be a joyful and engaging experience, giving families the opportunity to discover the instruments and sounds that make up the orchestra.

Hosted by Stephanie Arnold, DSO Community Engagement Officer and Principal Cellist, the concert will also feature guest conductor and DSO General Manager Paul Christ, alongside some instrument demonstrations performed by young musicians from the DSO Young Artists Program.

More information: <https://dso.org.au/palmerston-family-proms/>

And booking: <https://events.humanitix.com/palmerstonfamilyproms/tickets>

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